

see them coming when we have been looking for them so long. The little band at this place is wonderfully encouraged and we feel that with honest and devoted work and prayer, backed by the gospel alone doctrine, there is a bright future before them.

On Monday evening, November 21, we began at Claypool and continued four weeks. The meeting will be reported by our corresponding secretary. On January 2, 1899, the Lord will, we will begin at Tiosa. Brethren, pray for us. May God bless all his children is our prayer.

D. A. HOPKINS.

The Bethel Work

By request, and in the hope of encouraging other churches, we pen these words for the readers of the EVANGELIST.

The Bethel church is one of the places left without a pastor by the removal of our esteemed brother J. H. Swihart to Ark. Being solicited to take the oversight of the church we accepted the place and in October last began our pastoral work. On the evening of Dec. 3, 1898, we commenced a series of meetings which were continued until the 22nd. As usual there were the things by which we seek to account for what seems to us partial failure. Our failures, however, are not owing to bad roads, stormy weather, or dark nights, but to our low spiritual state, want of love, and actual disbelief. Notwithstanding real or supposed hindrances we gave ourselves to Christ to do with us what he could for his glory. We had a number of brethren and sisters whose hearts the Lord had touched and by our united prayers and earnest efforts the Lord added to our number eleven souls. Seven by confession, not yet baptized, and four by a renewal of their baptismal vow. See Rom. 6:15.

During the meetings many who had become cold and unconcerned about their spiritual condition, and disregarding of the trust which the Lord had committed to them were convinced of their great sin and we trust from this time on shall be found more faithful for Christ's sake and shall be found by him putting on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Many who had been long in the church found greater peace. Others came to realize that they had been in the service of bondage instead of the service of sonship. Thus did the Lord bless his word and those who had put their trust in him. It has seldom been my privilege to meet with a people so ready to heed the Word and to do, or at least make the attempt to do what their hands found to do. With surrendered wills, devoted hearts, and consecrated lives we can count on the Lord doing great things for us. Thus do the brethren at Bethel wait upon God.

Oakville.—With our faces toward the cross, our hearts filled with the love of Christ, and our progress united for a deeper work of grace in all our lives and the turning of sinners to the way of life, thus we were ready for a protracted meeting. But it pleased God to allow a hindrance to the prosecution

of our plans at that time Nov. 24. Now with the beginning of the new year we shall make another effort to continue the work.

The first of December we began on the second year of our work at Oakville. The past year has been one of pleasant associations and many have been the seasons of refreshing we have had from the Lord. The results as shown by outward signs, while not what they might have been nor all that was wished, have been very gratifying. In all our efforts we have been nobly seconded by faithful and loving hearts. We are so thankful that the Lord can still use us as an instrument for upbuilding his kingdom. Sometimes I wish I were Paul instead of Thomas, but that is because of self glory. But casting such thoughts behind we hold on trusting that while the Lord does not use us to bring great numbers captive to the feet of Jesus, he can use us to winnow the wheat. My desire is that the Lord may use me to make the church a mighty power for God, so that one can chase a thousand and two can put ten thousand to flight. Instead of one wretched selfish unconsecrated member in the church putting a whole congregation on the run and two worldly souls outside can route a thousand into a panic. The Oakville brethren have heartily seconded my desire during the year now past. Trusting in the Lord for results we roll on him our way for the coming year. May it be to all the Brethren churches a year in results fitting the closing century. Pray for us. A happy New Year to all.

Cowan, Ind.

L. W. DITCH.

Homerville, Ohio

Our pastor, H. S. Jacobs, held several night meetings for us, with the understanding that the meetings would be protracted if the snow stayed on and the roads kept good, and if vice versa, the meetings would likely close on short notice. His reasons for this promise (with the perverse) people in the country will not attend church unless the weather and roads are favorable. Only those who have been in the service of the Master for some time, will go through mud, rain or storm to listen to preaching unless the meetings have reached that point where everybody in hearing distance becomes interested in the meeting. Many of us have attended meetings of that character, and oh, how we all enjoy such meetings. Why, when a meeting of that kind I mean a regular Holy Ghost meeting gets well under way, every one seems happy. How church members will sing and pray and shake hands and kiss, some will even shout for joy, all of which agrees with a whole-souled man or woman. But not to be too tedious, our meetings had not reached that point, when rain set in and our fine going gradually slipped away from us, leaving us bad going, and not full houses for the preacher to address. The first meeting for preaching December 16 and continued to 24, including the 18 in the day time. On the evening of the 18th the congregation was

large as well as attentive, and in fact at all of these meetings the attentions seemed very good, and the sermons were gospel sermons well delivered and that with force and power. There seemed to be nothing against us except the condition of the roads. No visible results from these meetings in the direction of the conversion of sinners. But we hope and pray that the seed sown during these meetings may spring up in due time and bring fruit for the great Master.

Today, Christmas, Brother Deardorf of the U. B. fraternity of Kansas, preached for us. His age, I learn, is 72 years. He is an earnest talker and his sermon was listened to with becoming reverence. In conclusion, should we be favored with good roads in the near future, we may have another effort to report.

D. J. MYERS.

Miamisburg Echoes

To let the brotherhood know that Miamisburg still lives and moves, I shall endeavor to write a word concerning it. At present we are without a pastor, but we have been trying to keep the coals bright through the S. S. and Y. P. S. of K. C. We feel confident too, that none need lack for spiritual food, only we must do our own cooking, which gives us new and beneficial experiences. Our good Brother Tombaugh was with us Christmas and preached two sermons for us, which we appreciated very much. He has our good wishes, and not only do we warmly invite him back for a visit, but to bring his trunk would be quite as agreeable with us.

WM. BEACHLER.

Notes by the Way

It has been some time since I reported through the EVANGELIST. We have not been idle, but active in the work of the Lord. And as an item of news to my fellow-worker, this article is penned. On Nov. 6, 1898, I received a unanimous call to the pastorate at New Enterprise, Fairview and Liberty churches, and our work so far has been pleasant, and the Lord has blessed our feeble efforts to the conversion of sinners. Our work in the field for the last year has been crowned with success. We have added, during the year thus far, seventy-eight, have three for membership by relation and seven for baptism, with the assurance that others will unite in the near future. To God be all the glory and praise.

If the Lord will, we propose to redouble our diligence, and do our utmost to add as many or more during the coming year. Pray, brethren, for our success.

J. W. SMOUSE.

Dedication

The Arkton Brethren church, several miles from Tenth Legion, Va., was dedicated last Sunday—Elder E. B. Shaver, of Maurertown, Va., conducting the services. The church was not large enough to accommodate all the persons present, and the sermon was well received. A collection was